

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4734

To establish a National Center for Military Deployment Health Research to provide an independent means for the conduct and coordination of research into issues relating to the deployment of members of the Armed Forces overseas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2000

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. PASCRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a National Center for Military Deployment Health Research to provide an independent means for the conduct and coordination of research into issues relating to the deployment of members of the Armed Forces overseas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Military Deployment
5 Health Research Act of 2000”.

1 **TITLE I—NATIONAL CENTER**
2 **FOR MILITARY DEPLOYMENT**
3 **HEALTH RESEARCH.**

4 **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CENTER.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the ex-
6 ecutive branch of the Government an agency to be known
7 as the National Center for Military Deployment Health
8 Research (hereinafter in this title referred to as the “Cen-
9 ter”). The Center shall, in accordance with this title, co-
10 ordinate and conduct private and public research on de-
11 ployment-related health issues of members of the Armed
12 Forces, veterans, and their families.

13 (b) REPORTING.—(1) The Center shall be under the
14 auspices of, and shall report to, the Military and Veterans
15 Health Coordinating Board established on November 11,
16 1998, by Presidential Review Directive 5.

17 (2) The provisions of that directive as in effect on
18 the date of the enactment of this Act shall remain in effect
19 unless changed by law.

20 (3) The Research Working Group of that Board, as
21 in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, shall
22 be disestablished, and the functions of that group shall
23 be assumed by the Center.

1 **SEC. 102. GOVERNING BOARD.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF GOVERNING BOARD.—The
3 Center shall be under the direction of a Governing Board.
4 The Governing Board shall consist of 21 members, ap-
5 pointed as follows:

6 (1) Twelve members appointed by the Presi-
7 dent, of whom—

8 (A) six shall be appointed from persons
9 who, by reason of training, experience, and edu-
10 cation, have qualifications in the fields of re-
11 search to be considered by the Board; and

12 (B) six shall be appointed from the general
13 population, including persons representing the
14 interests of veterans and their families and the
15 general public.

16 (2) Three members appointed by the Secretary
17 of Veterans Affairs from officers and employees of
18 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

19 (3) Three members appointed by the Secretary
20 of Defense from officers and employees of the De-
21 partment of Defense and members of the Armed
22 Forces.

23 (4) Three members appointed by the Secretary
24 of Health and Human Services from officers and
25 employees of the Department of Health and Human
26 Services.

1 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS BY INDEPENDENT SCI-
2 ENTIFIC ENTITY.—The President shall designate an inde-
3 pendent scientific entity to make recommendations for ap-
4 pointments under paragraph (1) of subsection (a). When
5 making such recommendations, the entity shall rec-
6 ommend twice the number of candidates as there are posi-
7 tions available.

8 (c) TERMS.—Persons appointed to the Governing
9 Board under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall serve
10 for a term of three years, except that, of the persons ini-
11 tially appointed—

12 (1) pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(A), two shall
13 be appointed for a term of one year, and two shall
14 be appointed for a term of two years;

15 (2) pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(B), two shall
16 be appointed for a term of one year, and two shall
17 be appointed for a term of two years;

18 (3) pursuant to subsection (a)(2), one shall be
19 appointed for a term of one year, and one shall be
20 appointed for a term of two years;

21 (4) pursuant to subsection (a)(3), one shall be
22 appointed for a term of one year, and one shall be
23 appointed for a term of two years; and

1 (5) pursuant to subsection (a)(4), one shall be
2 appointed for a term of one year, and one shall be
3 appointed for a term of two years.

4 (d) PAY.—Persons appointed to the Governing Board
5 under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall receive pay
6 at the rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the Execu-
7 tive Schedule. Persons appointed to the Governing Board
8 under paragraph (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (a) shall
9 receive no additional compensation by reason of service on
10 the board.

11 (e) CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BOARD.—The Presi-
12 dent shall designate one of the members of the Governing
13 Board to chair the Board.

14 (f) MEETINGS.—The Governing Board shall meet on
15 the call of the chair of the Board or a majority of the
16 members of the Board.

17 (g) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Governing
18 Board shall be as follows:

19 (1) Development of a coordinated research
20 agenda.

21 (2) Commissioning of new research.

22 (3) Creation of policies for the conduct and dis-
23 semination of research by the Center, other Federal
24 entities, and non-Federal entities in matters relating
25 to deployment-related health issues of members of

1 the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families, in-
2 cluding policies to minimize research duplication.

3 (4) Evaluation of the results of research de-
4 scribed in paragraph (3).

5 (5) Development of policy recommendations
6 that emerge from that research.

7 (6) Communication of the results of the re-
8 search described in paragraph (3) to the medical
9 community and patients with deployment-related
10 health issues.

11 (h) DIRECTOR.—The Governing Board shall select a
12 Director for the Center, who shall receive pay at the rate
13 of basic pay payable for level III of the Executive Sched-
14 ule.

15 **SEC. 103. RESEARCH NETWORK.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall coordinate and
17 conduct research activities relating to deployment-related
18 health issues of members of the Armed Forces, veterans,
19 and their families. The Center's research activities shall
20 include (1) activities with respect to Federal research pro-
21 grams, and (2) Center-initiated research.

22 (b) FEDERAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS.—(1) The Cen-
23 ter shall conduct and maintain an inventory of research
24 programs relating to deployment-related health issues car-
25 ried out by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Vet-

1 erans Affairs, the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
2 ices, and other Federal officials.

3 (2) The Center shall consult with, and seek the advice
4 of, other federally sponsored researchers (both intramural
5 and extramural) in developing the Center's research agen-
6 da.

7 (c) CENTER-INITIATED RESEARCH.—(1) The Center
8 shall conduct a broad-based research program into deploy-
9 ment-related health issues. As part of that program, the
10 Center may, from funds appropriated for that purpose,
11 make grants for research into deployment-related health
12 issues. Any such grant shall be made based upon issuance
13 of a Request for Applications or a Request for Proposals.
14 Applications and proposals shall be assessed through a
15 peer-review process, which shall, to the extent possible, be
16 carried out by the National Institutes of Health.

17 (2) In conducting such research, the Center shall so-
18 licit proposals from other Federal agencies, from univer-
19 sities, and from other research sites.

20 (3) In awarding contracts for research, the Center
21 shall seek to establish a network of research sites at aca-
22 demic medical centers, university-wide research facilities,
23 and other appropriate sources.

1 (d) CORE RESEARCH PRINCIPLES.—Center-initiated
2 research shall be conducted using the following core set
3 of principles:

4 (1) Use of a scientific peer-review process for
5 all research.

6 (2) Dissemination of research results to the sci-
7 entific community through conventional venues of
8 scientific communication.

9 (3) Encouragement of interagency, interdepart-
10 mental, and Federal-academic collaboration.

11 **SEC. 104. CORE FUNCTIONS.**

12 The Center shall carry out the following core func-
13 tions:

14 (1) Research coordination and setting of prior-
15 ities.

16 (2) Synthesis of research for the purpose of de-
17 veloping policy recommendations.

18 (3) Review and analysis of longitudinal moni-
19 toring of deployment-related health of veterans.

20 (4) Facilitating the use of national data re-
21 sources for research activities relating to deploy-
22 ment-related health issues.

23 (5) Communication of the results of such re-
24 search activities to the medical community and pa-
25 tients with deployment-related health issues.

1 **SEC. 105. ANNUAL REPORT; BUDGET.**

2 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Governing Board for the
3 Center shall submit to Congress an annual report on the
4 activities of the Center. The report shall include—

5 (1) a description of the activities of the Center
6 during the preceding year; and

7 (2) a detailed description of the proposed budg-
8 et for the Center for the next fiscal year.

9 (b) BUDGET.—Funds shall be provided for the Cen-
10 ter for each fiscal year in a discrete appropriation.
11 Amounts appropriated for the Center for the core func-
12 tions of the Center and for Center-initiated research shall
13 be set forth separately.

14 **SEC. 106. DEPLOYMENT-RELATED HEALTH ISSUES DE-**
15 **FINED.**

16 For purposes of this title, the term “deployment-re-
17 lated health issues” includes the following:

18 (1) Issues relating to injuries and illnesses to
19 members of the Armed Forces during deployment
20 resulting from combat, training, infectious diseases,
21 and environmental exposures.

22 (2) Conditions that emerge during or following
23 deployment, including—

24 (A) diagnosable conditions;

25 (B) medically unexplained symptoms (both
26 physical and mental);

1 (C) effects on health-related quality of life;

2 (D) family impacts; and

3 (E) sequelae of combat injuries.

4 (3) Conditions arising from inoculations before
5 deployment that are intended to provide protection
6 from conditions that could be encountered during
7 deployment.

8 **TITLE II—CENTERS FOR RE-**
9 **SEARCH ON POST-DEPLOY-**
10 **MENT ILLNESSES IN DEPART-**
11 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

12 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Chapter 73 of title 38, United
14 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing new section:

16 **“§ 7323. Centers for research on post-deployment ill-**
17 **nesses**

18 “(a) The Secretary shall establish and operate cen-
19 ters for research, education, and clinical activities related
20 to post-deployment illnesses. Such centers shall be known
21 as ‘National Centers for Military Post-Deployment Illness
22 Research’. Such centers shall be established and operated
23 by collaborating Department facilities as provided in sub-
24 section (c)(1).

1 “(2) For purposes of this section and section 7324
2 of this title, the term ‘post-deployment illness’ means any
3 health condition being currently studied or that will be
4 studied that has (or that may have) an association to or
5 relation to a military deployment mission, including a
6 peacekeeping mission.

7 “(3) Each such center shall function as a center for—

8 “(A) research on post-deployment illnesses;

9 “(B) the use by the Department of specific models
10 for furnishing services to treat post-deployment ill-
11 nesses;

12 “(C) education and training of health-care profes-
13 sionals of the Department; and

14 “(D) the development and implementation of in-
15 novative clinical activities and systems of care with
16 respect to the delivery of such services by the De-
17 partment.

18 “(4) The Secretary shall provide for the research con-
19 ducted by such centers to be compiled and transmitted to
20 a centrally located coordinating center.

21 “(b)(1) The Secretary shall, upon the recommendation
22 of the Under Secretary for Health, the Secretary of De-
23 fense, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
24 designate not more than 25 centers under this section. In
25 making such designations, the Secretary shall ensure that

1 the centers designated are located in various geographic
2 regions of the United States.

3 (2) The authority of the Secretary to establish and oper-
4 ate centers under this section is subject to the appropria-
5 tion of funds for that purpose.

6 “(c) The Secretary may not designate a health-care
7 facility as a location for a center under subsection (a) un-
8 less the peer review panel established under subsection (d)
9 has determined under that subsection that the proposal
10 submitted by such facility as a location for a new center
11 under subsection (a) is among those proposals which have
12 met the highest competitive standards of scientific and
13 clinical merit, and the Secretary (upon the recommenda-
14 tion of the Under Secretary for Health) determines that
15 the facility has (or may reasonably be anticipated to de-
16 velop) each of the following:

17 “(1) An arrangement with an accredited med-
18 ical school which provides education and training in
19 post-deployment illnesses and with which such facil-
20 ity is affiliated under which residents receive edu-
21 cation and training in post-deployment illnesses.

22 “(2) An arrangement under which nursing or
23 allied health personnel receive training and edu-
24 cation in post-deployment illnesses.

1 “(3) The ability to attract the participation of
2 scientists who are capable of ingenuity and creativity
3 in health-care research efforts.

4 “(4) A policymaking advisory committee com-
5 posed of appropriate health-care and research rep-
6 resentatives of the facility and of the affiliated
7 school or schools to advise the directors of such fa-
8 cility and such center on policy matters pertaining to
9 the activities of such center during the period of the
10 operation of such center.

11 “(5) The capability to conduct effectively eval-
12 uations of the activities of such center.

13 “(d)(1) In order to provide advice to assist the Sec-
14 retary and the Under Secretary for Health in carrying out
15 their responsibilities under this section, the Under Sec-
16 retary shall establish a panel to assess the scientific and
17 clinical merit of proposals that are submitted to the Sec-
18 retary for the establishment of new centers under this sec-
19 tion.

20 “(2) The membership of the panel shall consist of ex-
21 perts in the fields of post-deployment illnesses research,
22 education, and clinical care. Members of the panel shall
23 serve as consultants to the Department for a period of
24 no longer than six months.

1 “(3) The panel shall review each proposal submitted
2 to the panel by the Under Secretary and shall submit its
3 views on the relative scientific and clinical merit of each
4 such proposal to the Under Secretary.

5 “(4) The panel shall not be subject to the Federal
6 Advisory Committee Act.

7 “(e) There are authorized to be appropriated such
8 sums as may be necessary for the support of the research,
9 treatment, and education activities of the centers estab-
10 lished pursuant to subsection (a). The Under Secretary
11 for Health shall allocate to such centers from other funds
12 appropriated generally for the Department medical care
13 account and medical and prosthetics research account, as
14 appropriate, such amounts as the Under Secretary for
15 Health determines appropriate.

16 “(f) Activities of clinical and scientific investigation
17 at each center established under subsection (a) shall be
18 eligible to compete for the award of funding from funds
19 appropriated for the Department medical and prosthetics
20 research account and shall receive priority in the award
21 of funding from such account insofar as funds are award-
22 ed to projects for research in post-deployment illnesses.”.

- 1 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such
- 2 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following
- 3 new item:

“7323. Centers for research on post-deployment illnesses.”.

